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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

L.B. Kool et al. : Group Art Unit: 2825
Application No. 09/591,531 : Examiner: I. U. Anya
Filed: June 9, 2000 : Response to Paper No. 9
For: **Method for Removing a Coating From a Substrate,
And Related Compositions**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

S I R:

In response to the Office Action dated 14 August 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please CANCEL claim 23 without prejudice.

Please replace the indicated claims with the following corrected versions:

1. (Amended) A method for selectively removing at least one coating from the surface of a substrate, comprising the step of contacting the coating with an aqueous composition which comprises an acid having the formula H_xAF_6 , or precursors to said acid, wherein A is selected from the group consisting of Si, Ge, Ti, Zr, Al, and Ga; wherein x is 1-6; and wherein contacting said coating further comprises contacting at least one of a diffusion coating and an overlay coating.

24. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the diffusion coating comprises an aluminide material.